

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of evaluating characters in a message, comprising the steps of:

creating a character table bank having at least one row representing an entry for a predetermined character and a plurality of columns associated with a corresponding row, wherein each column is associated with a predetermined character set and wherein the predetermined character sets represent different languages;

accepting an input of the characters of the message; and

evaluating the message by determining whether the characters of the message are supported by the predetermined character sets associated with the corresponding plurality of columns of the character table bank.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of evaluating the message further comprises:

encoding the predetermined character of the at least one row in a universal code format;

testing the characters of the message against the encoded predetermined character to determine a match; and

identifying the predetermined character sets that correspond to the encoded predetermined character of the at least one row as character sets that express the characters of the message.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the universal code format is Unicode.

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5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of computing, for each column of the character table bank, a total number of characters of the message that are supported by the corresponding predetermined character set.

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6. (Previously Presented) A system for evaluating characters in a message, comprising:
a character table bank unit that is adapted to create a character table bank having at least one row representing an entry for a predetermined character and a plurality of columns associated with a corresponding row, wherein each column is associated with a predetermined character set and wherein the predetermined character sets represent different languages;
an input interface that is adapted to accept an input of the characters of the message; and
a processor unit that is adapted to evaluate the message by determining whether the characters of the message are supported by the predetermined character sets associated with the corresponding plurality of columns of the character table bank.

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7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, further comprises:
an encoding unit that is adapted to encode the predetermined character of the at least one row in a universal code format;
a testing unit that is adapted to test the characters of the message against the encoded predetermined character to determine a match; and
an identifying unit that is adapted to identify the predetermined character sets that express the characters of the message.

9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, wherein the universal code format is Unicode.

10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim ⁷6, wherein the processor unit is adapted to compute, for each column in the character table bank, a total number of characters of the message that are supported by the corresponding predetermined character set.

¹³11. (Previously Presented) A system for evaluating characters in a message, comprising:
character table bank creating means for creating a character table bank having at least one row representing an entry for a predetermined character and a plurality of columns associated with a corresponding row, wherein each column is associated with a predetermined set and wherein the predetermined character sets represent different languages;
input interface means for accepting an input of the characters of the message; and
processor means for evaluating the message by determining whether the characters of the message are supported by the predetermined character sets associated with the corresponding plurality of columns of the character table bank.

12. (Canceled)

¹⁴13. (Previously Presented) The system of claim ¹³11, further comprising:
encoding means for encoding the predetermined character of the at least one row in a universal code format;
testing means for testing the characters of the message against the encoded predetermined character to determine a match; and
identifying means for identifying the predetermined character sets that correspond to the encoded predetermined character of the at least one row as character sets that express the characters of the message.

¹⁵14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim ¹⁴13, wherein the universal code format is Unicode.

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15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim ¹³11, wherein the processor means computes, for each column of the character table bank, a total number of characters of the message that are supported by the corresponding predetermined character set.

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16. (Previously Presented) A storage medium for storing machine readable code, the machine readable code being executable to evaluate characters in an electronic message according to the steps of:

creating a character table bank having at least one row representing an entry for a predetermined character and a plurality of columns associated with a corresponding row, wherein each column is associated with a predetermined character set and wherein the predetermined character sets represent different languages;

accepting an input of the characters of the message; and

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evaluating the message by determining whether the characters of the message are supported by the predetermined character sets associated with the corresponding plurality of columns of the character table bank.

17. (Cancelled).

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18. (Previously Presented) The storage medium of claim ¹⁹16, wherein the step of evaluating the message further comprises:

encoding the predetermined character of the at least one row in a universal code format;

testing the characters of the message against the encoded predetermined character to determine a match; and

identifying the predetermined character sets that correspond to the encoded predetermined character of the at least one row as character sets that express the characters of the message.

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19. (Previously Presented) The storage medium of claim ²⁰18, wherein the universal code format is Unicode.

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20. (Previously Presented) The storage medium of claim ¹⁹16, further comprising the step of computing, for each column of the character table bank, a total number of character of the message that are supported by the corresponding predetermined character set.

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21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of creating the character table bank further includes providing an indication in each column of whether the corresponding predetermined character set is able to express the predetermined character of the corresponding row.

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22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim ²3, further comprising the step of creating a mask comprising a number of mask columns that correspond to a number of columns in the character table bank, wherein the columns of the mask contain an indication of the predetermined character sets against which the characters of the message are to be evaluated.

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23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim ⁷6, wherein the character table bank unit is further adapted to provide an indication in each column of whether the corresponding predetermined character set is able to express the predetermined character of the corresponding row.

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24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, further comprising a mask creating unit that is adapted to create a mask with a number of mask columns that correspond to a number of columns in the character table bank, wherein the columns of the mask contain an indication of the predetermined character sets against which the characters of the message are to be evaluated.

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25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim ¹³11, wherein the character table bank creating means provides an indication in each column of whether the corresponding predetermined character set is able to express the predetermined character of the corresponding row.

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26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim ¹⁴13, further comprising a mask creating means for creating a mask with a number of mask columns that correspond to a number of columns in the character table bank, wherein the columns of the mask contain an indication of the predetermined character sets against which the characters of the message are to be evaluated.

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27. (Previously Presented) The storage medium of claim ¹⁹16, wherein the step of creating the character table bank further includes providing an indication in each column of whether the corresponding predetermined character set is able to express the predetermined character of the corresponding row.

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28. (Previously Presented) The storage medium of claim ²⁰18, further comprising the step of creating a mask comprising a number of mask columns that correspond to a number of columns in the character table bank, wherein the columns of the mask contain an indication of the predetermined character sets against which the characters of the message are to be evaluated.